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## S.D. UNEMPLOYMENT DIPS AS JOB GROWTH STALLS

BY PHILLIP MOLNAR

The jobless rate in San Diego County hit one of its lowest points of the year in October but yearly job growth continued to slow, said state labor statistics released Friday.

San Diego's unemployment rate in October, 3.7 percent, was lower than the statewide unadjusted unemployment rate of 4.3 percent and the nationwide rate of 3.9 percent, according to the state Employment Development Department.

The region added 16,600 jobs year over year, which is considerably fewer than the start of this year when roughly 30,000 jobs were added in the 12-month period.

Still, it could be worse. The region lost 83,100 jobs year-over-year

SEE **JOBLESS • A10**

## DISASTER AID PUSH PROMPTS REQUEST FOR CUTS ELSEWHERE

White House seeks trims to offset additional costs

BY THOMAS KAPLAN

WASHINGTON

The White House asked Congress on Friday for $44 billion in additional relief in response to this year's devastating hurricanes, but facing rising budget deficits and pushing a tax cut that could cost $1.5 trillion, the administration also suggested that lawmakers make spending cuts to offset disaster costs.

Republicans have been quiet about the ballooning national debt as they press to enact deep tax cuts before the end of the year. The deficit for fiscal 2017 totaled $666 billion, an increase of $80 billion from the previous year. And spending continues to climb.

Disaster relief costs are approaching $100 billion, with more likely to come. And congressional leaders are eyeing a deal that would allow nondefense and military spending to burst through strict caps put in place in 2011,

SEE **CUTS • A10**

HOWARD LIPIN U-T

## CELEBRATING CITIZENSHIP

**Marvin Malko, 12, of El Cajon was one of a group of 100 children from 25 different countries who became naturalized U.S. citizens Friday during a special children's citizenship ceremony held at the New Americans Museum in Liberty Station. Malko was born in Syria.**

## BRAVERMAN APPOINTED INTERIM U.S. ATTORNEY FOR S.D.

Justice Department pick has led high-profile cases against drug cartels here

BY KRISTINA DAVIS

The Department of Justice's pick for U.S. attorney in San Diego was sworn into office this week, but only in an interim capacity as the process to nominate an official candidate has crawled along.

A DOJ official said Adam Braverman, who has led high-profile prosecutions against Mexican cartel leaders in San Diego, is the top choice for the post, but the Trump administration has been unable to officially nominate him because Sen. Kamala Harris has yet to interview any candidates for the job.

Braverman was interviewed by a selection committee put together by the state's other senator, Dianne Feinstein, over the summer.

"We're evaluating candidates and will work closely with the administration and Senator Feinstein in the selection of a nominee," Tyrone Gale, spokesman for Harris, D-Calif., said Friday.

The process to nominate the U.S. attorneys in California has been especially opaque given the party lines, and even candidates themselves have been unsure who is leading the charge: the two Democratic senators, Republican congress members or the Department of Justice.

The nominee will ultimately have to pass through the Senate Judicial Committee, of which Feinstein is the ranking minority member, and be voted on by the full Senate.

Putting Braverman in the post now sends a clear message to the decision makers.

Braverman was sworn in Thursday. He replaces Alana Robinson, who was second-in-charge in the office when she was appointed as act-

SEE **BRAVERMAN • A16**

## TIJUANA CLINIC UNDER SCRUTINY IN PATIENT'S DEATH

51-year-old woman from Downey crossed border for liposuction surgery

BY SANDRA DIBBLE

Irma Saenz told family members she was going to Tijuana for the day one Friday late last month. But she didn't tell them what for: The 51-year-old Downey resident had scheduled a liposuction procedure at a cosmetic surgery clinic.

Four days later, Saenz was unconscious and in a coma when an ambulance brought her across the border, her relatives said. She died last Saturday — nearly two weeks later — at Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center, after family members agreed to take her off life support.

"We want to know what really happened," said her niece, Nora Saenz. Nora Saenz said distraught family members were misled about what was taking place as her aunt lay in a coma in an intensive care bed at a Tijuana hospital.

"We don't want another family going through what we went through," she said.

The incident has placed scrutiny on the clinic where the surgery took place, Embellécete Aesthetic Surgery Group, and the clinic's director, Dr. Guillermo Díaz Vergara, who reportedly performed the procedure. Díaz Vergara does not appear to have training as a plastic surgeon, and leaders of Tijuana's medical community are questioning his qualifications.

"The only ones who can perform liposuction are plastic surgeons who have obtained a diploma in the specialty," said Dr. Javier García, the head of the Cirujanos Plásticos, Estéticos y Reconstructivos de Baja California, the state's association of plastic surgeons. Díaz Vergara is not a member.

Díaz Vergara did not respond to telephone calls made to his clinic's offices in Tijuana and Ensenada.

Saenz's death comes as Baja

SEE **DEATH • A8**

## ABUSE CHARGES REVIVE SCRUTINY OF CLINTON AND DIVIDE DEMOCRATS

BY KAREN TUMULTY & KATIE METTLER

A torrent of sexual abuse allegations against powerful figures in politics and media has reignited the defining political fight of the 1990s.

But this time, the battle is being waged within the ranks of Democrats and their allies, including leaders of the feminist movement. A growing number now say they were wrong to have so stridently defended former President

**Former President Bill Clinton**

Bill Clinton against the women who over the years accused him of offenses that ranged from groping to exposing his genitals to rape.

The uncomfortable question is whether Democrats then were guilty of the sin they accuse Republicans of committing now by continuing to support President Trump and Alabama GOP Senate nominee Roy Moore, despite allegations of sexual offenses: Were they also

SEE **CLINTON • A18**

## TRUMP WALKS FINE LINE IN OFFERING CRITICISM OF SEXUAL HARASSERS

BY JENNA JOHNSON

President Donald Trump's decision to mock Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., for groping a sleeping woman while posing for a photo has once again made him a central figure in the national discussion about sexual assault, harassment and misconduct — and has again brought attention to past accusations against the president himself.

As a growing number of

**President Donald Trump**

prominent men have publicly faced accusations, Trump has been selective in responding, largely on the basis of whether the accused is an ally or foe and focusing relatively little on the alleged victims.

Trump called his own accusers "horrible, horrible liars" and threatened to sue them, while coming to the defense of friends such as political commentator Bill O'Reilly and former Fox

SEE **TRUMP • A12**

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